



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **INDICTMENT UNSEALED CHARGING FOUR WITH \$350,000 ROBBERY OF PHILADELPHIA WAL-MART**

### **Two Defendants Were Wal-Mart Employees**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Pat Meehan and FBI Special Agent-in-Charge J.P. Weis today announced the unsealing of a three-count indictment,<sup>1</sup> charging four defendants with the December 3 robbery of the Wal-Mart at 4640 Roosevelt Boulevard during which more than \$350,000 was stolen from the store's safe. The indictment charges Bilial Shabazz, a/k/a "Pepe," a/k/a "Terry Sharp," Christopher Young, a/k/a "Pun," Steven Patton, and Bruce Johnson with conspiracy to commit a Hobbs Act Robbery, as well as using and carrying firearms during and in relation to a crime of violence. Patton and Johnson, both Wal-Mart employees at the time of the robbery, are in custody as is Young who was arrested Friday. Shabazz is currently a fugitive.

"This was a well-planned and calculated inside job," said Meehan. "The defendants used their access and knowledge of store procedures to pull off a robbery that ended with a store employee on the floor with his hands and ankles duct taped."

According to the indictment, defendants Patton and Johnson used their positions as assistant managers at Wal-Mart to help plan the robbery and conspired with Shabazz and Young to rob the store while Patton was working his night shift so he could open the safe and pretend to be a victim of the robbery.

The defendants agreed that the robbery would take place at about 2:00 a.m. on Saturday December 3, when the front doors would be opened for Wal-Mart's night shift workers to take their lunch breaks and when the store's Saturday sales proceeds would already be stored in Wal-Mart's safe.

Johnson provided Shabazz and Young with blue, Wal-Mart smocks to carry as they entered the store. Once inside, Shabazz and Young brandished firearms at an employee, forced him into a back room containing the safe, and duct taped his hands and ankles. Shabazz and Young then stole approximately \$351,563 and fled from the store.

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<sup>1</sup> An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

If convicted on Counts One and Two, defendants face a maximum of twenty years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment. If convicted on Count Three, defendants face a mandatory seven year consecutive sentence, up to life imprisonment, a lifetime of supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the Philadelphia office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Philadelphia Police Department, and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Karen S. Marston.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
Bilal Shabazz, a/k/a "Pepe," a/k/a "Terry Sharp"	Fugitive	Age 36, d/o/b 6/19/1970
Christopher Young, a/k/a "Pun"	In Federal Custody	Age 33, d/o/b 1/25/1973
Steven Patton	Curran Fromhold Correc- tional Facility	Age 25, d/o/b 12/22/1980
Bruce Johnson	Curran Fromhold Correc- tional Facility	Age 34, d/o/b 2/10/1972

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